

Effective Date: Spring 2008

Course Description

An introduction to composition and analysis of the essay and its rhetorical strategies.

Placement/Prerequisite: ACT score as specified in the Placement section of the catalog or a grade of “C” or higher in English 0092. A grade of “C” or higher is required in ENGL 1001 to advance to English 1002.

Course Objectives

1. To become familiar with the principle of effective writing through the use of model essays
2. To analyze a writing situation, including purpose and audience
3. To practice writing a thesis, developed through adequate and pertinent support
4. To practice writing as a process that culminates in a final product written in clear, appropriate prose
5. To practice proper documentation and academic honesty
6. To write a minimum of four essays a semester leading to a total of twelve to fifteen pages or 3000 to 5000 total words

Procedures to Evaluate these Objectives

1. Analysis of model essays and other texts with attention to rhetorical strategies
2. Quizzes on assigned readings, rhetorical strategies, and writing conventions
3. Essay assignments, written both inside and outside of class, with an emphasis on the writing process

Use of Results to Improve the Course

Instructors will evaluate performance on essay analyses, quizzes, and essay assignments to:

1. guide the selection of more appropriate or effective model essays
2. develop more effective approaches to teaching students how to analyze the writing situation
3. develop more effective approaches to teaching principles of organization
4. identify needs for customized instruction in grammar, usage, mechanics, conventions of documentation, formatting, and processing a paper from prewriting through editing

Sample Topical Outline

1. The Writing Process (recursiveness, multiple drafts, revision, editing)
2. Analysis of the Writing Situation (audience and purpose)
3. Prewriting/Invention strategies (reading, brainstorming, clustering, freewriting)
4. Organization of Essays
 - a. Introductory paragraph strategies and thesis
 - b. Body paragraphs and topic sentences
 - c. Transitions
 - d. Supporting details (reasoning, examples, names, numbers, senses)
5. Revision of Essays
6. Editing of Essays
 - a. Concision and clarity
 - b. Sentence variety
 - c. Usage
 - d. Agreement

- e. Mechanics
 - f. Parallelism
- 7. Formatting of Essays
- 8. Use and Documentation of Sources